



¶ By the King.

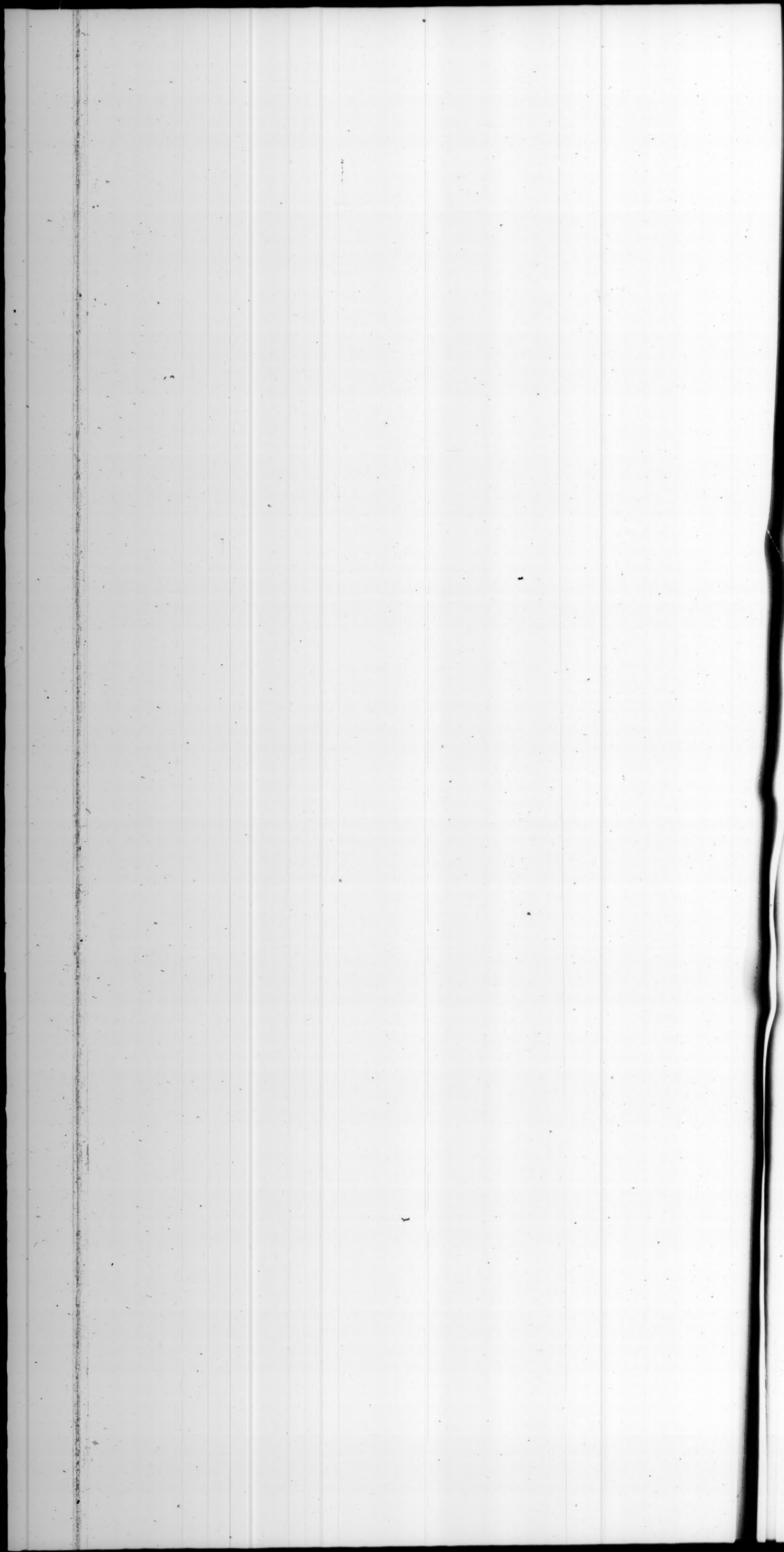
✠ A Proclamation touching the Corporation
of Bever-makers of London, and to restrain the Import-
ing of forrain Hats, and the wearing of Demy-casters
within his Majesties Dominions.



Hereas, notwithstanding the Princely care of Our late dear and Royall Father King JAMES of blessed memory, for the necessary maintenance and preservation of the Manufacture of Hats and Caps within this Kingdome, in prohibiting by severall Proclamations the Importation into the same from forrain parts, of any Hats or Caps whatsoever, either wrought or half wrought, upon pain of the forfeiture of the same; we now finde that abundance of Hats and Caps, aswell of Beaver-stuffe, or Beaver-wooll, as of other wooll and materialls made & wrought in forrain parts, are frequently imported into this our Kingdome, to the great impoverishment and depriving of multitudes of Our poore subjects of their livelihood and imployment.

Wee tending the common good of our said subjects, and that for the time to come they may be enabled to live, and maintain themselves and families, by their honest labours in their said trades; And that the Art and Mysterie of making or working of Hats and Caps of Beaver-stuffe or Beaver-wooll within Our said Kingdome, may be regulated in a just and orderly way, without the deceits and abuses now practised in the same, (the wearing of Beaver-Hats being of late times become much in use, especially by those of sort and quality) have thought fit to incorporate sundry persons Free-men of London, expert in the art of making or working Hats and Caps of Beaver-stuffe or Beaver-wooll, who accordingly are to govern the said trade, and may be answerable to Us for the same.

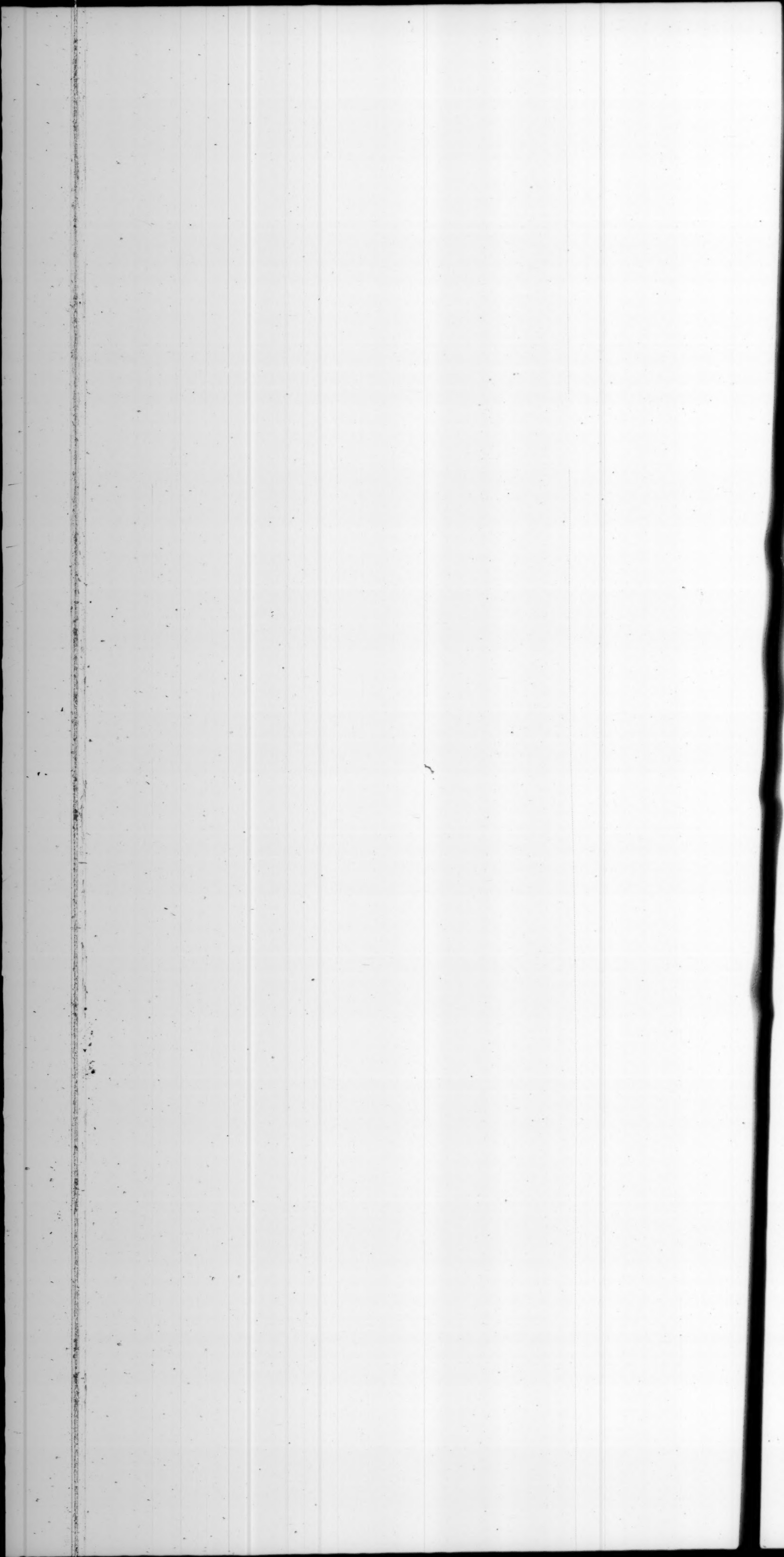
And therefore wee do straightly charge and command all person and persons whatsoever, aswell Our naturall born subjects, as denizens or strangers, That they or any of them directly or indirectly, do not from henceforth at any time or times hereafter, import, convey, or bring, or cause to be imported, conveyed, or brought into Our Realm of England or Domi-



nion of Wales, any Hats or Caps of Beber, or other Hats or Caps, of what condition or sort soever, made, wrought or half wrought, or hereafter to be made, wrought or half wrought, in any parts beyond the Seas, to be sold or put to sale here. And that no person or persons whatsoever, after the twelfth day of August next coming, shall sell or put to sale, or shall have in their houses or shops, to sell or put to sale, any of the said forrain Hats, or Caps, already imported into this Our Realm of England, and Dominion of Wales, upon pain of the losse and forfeiture of the same, and such further punishment as shall be meet for such their contempt, the one half of which forfeitures to be to the use of Us, Our Heirs, and Successours, and the other half of the said Beber-hats or Hats mixt with Beber so to be imported, to be to the use of the said Beber-makers and their Successours; and the moiety of all other Felts so to be imported, to be to the use of the Company of Felt-makers of London, and their Successours.

And to the end that the said Corporation of Beber-makers, Our naturall born Subjects, may be constantly employed in their said Trade, we do hereby straightly charge and command, that no person or persons whatsoever within Our said Realme of England, or Dominion of Wales, at any time or times hereafter, do presume to use or exercise the Trade or Mystery of making or working of Hats or Caps of Beber-stuffe or Beber-wooll, to be sold or put to sale, unlesse such persons have commonly used the said Trade by the space of two yeeres last past, or have served an Apprentiship to the same by the space of seven yeeres: And that no person or persons whatsoever, for the time to come, shall use or practise the said Trade, unlesse he or they have been or shall be first bound and brought up as Apprentice or Apprentices in the same Trade by the space of seven yeeres at the least, and are or shall be members of the said Corporation, upon pain of Our high displeasure, and such punishments as shall be meet for the offenders herein, for such their contempts of Our Royall commands, and the losse and forfeiture of all such Beber-hats and Caps as shall be so made, to be seized to Our use, the one moiety to be to Us, Our Heirs and Successours, and the other moiety to be to the Company of Beber-makers and their Successours. And we do hereby declare, that there is no Intention by the said Charter made to the said Beber-makers, or any Grant therein concerning search to be made by them, that the power of search formerly granted to the Company of Haberdashers of London, or to the Company of Felt-makers of London, should in any sort be impeached.

And for that divers of Our Subjects have heretofore found inconvenience in the use of Beber-hats intermixt with other hair or stuffe then Beber, we do therefore straightly charge and command, that no Beber-makers whatsoever from henceforth shall make any Hats or Caps but of pure Beber, and that in the making or working thereof, they or any of them shall not intermix, use, or work, or cause to be intermixed, used, or wrought, any hair, wooll, or stuffe whatsoever, other then good and perfect Beber, upon pain of the losse and forfeiture of the same, the one moiety to Us, Our Heirs, and Successours, and the other to such as shall seize the same. And Our will and pleasure is, that if upon any search to be made by the said Company of Haberdashers of London, or by the said Company of Beber-makers, there shall be found in any of the houses, shops, ware-houses or work-houses, of any of the said Beber-makers, or in any other place for their or any of their uses, any hair, wooll, or stuffe whatsoever used in making of Hats or Caps other then Beber-stuffe onely,



That then the same shall be seized by such of the said Companies of Haberdashers and Weber-makers as shall so finde the same as forfeited, the one half thereof to be to Us, Our Heirs, or Successours, and the other half thereof to such of the said Companies as shall so finde and seize the same. And Our further will and pleasure is, That if the said Company of Haberdashers, or the said Company of Weber-makers, upon any search by them, or either of them to be made, shall finde any deceitfull Weber-hats, or Caps, that then the same shall by them that shall so finde the same, be seized and carried to the Guild-Hall of Our Citie of London, there to be tried by Jury, and in case they shall be there condemned for such, then the same to be consumed by fire. The said Charter of Incorporation made to the said Company of Weber-makers, or any Grant, power or thing therein contained to the contrary thereof in any wise notwithstanding.

And forasmuch as a sort of Hatts called Demycasters, wherein some Weber is intermixed, are now found not to be usefull in Our Dominions, Our will and pleasure therefore is, and we do straightly charge and command, That from henceforth no Haberdashers, nor makers of Demycasters, nor other hat-makers or persons whatsoever, after Midsummer day next, shall utter, or sell any hat or hats called Demycasters, or other hats wherein Weber shall be mixed or wrought, with other materials by retayl, or have any such hats in their houses or Shops to utter or sell by retayl to any of Our Subjects, or others, to be worn within any Our Dominions: And that none of Our Subjects after one yeer next ensuing, shall wear any Demycasters, or other hat wherein any Weber wooll, or Weber stuffe is mixt, or wrought with other materials within Our said Dominions, upon pain of the losse and forfeiture of the same to be seized and taken to Our use, the one half thereof to be to Us, Our Heirs and Successours, and the other half to such as shall seize the same, and upon such further penalties as shall be meet for such their contempts.

Nevertheless, being informed that the said Demycasters, wherein Weber is mixt with other materials, are usefull and desired in forraign parts: we are pleased that the said Makers thereof, and other hat-makers (other then the said Weber-makers) may still make the said Demycasters; And that they, or any Haberdashers may sell the same to Merchants in grosse, and not otherwise, to be by them transported from the Port of London onely, into parts beyond the seas, & to be there vented. And that Our Royall intention herein may be duely observed, we do hereby straightly charge & command, That no Demycaster-makers, or other hat-makers, that shall hereafter make any Demycasters or hats wherein any Weber-wooll or Weber-stuffe is intermixed with other materials, shall directly or indirectly sell, or put to sale any Demycasters or hats wherein Weber-wooll is mixt with other materials to any person or persons whatsoever, before he or they first bring the same to the common hall or meeting place of the said Weber-makers in Our said Citie of London, there from time to time (as they shall be so brought) to be immediately marked (without fee or dutie) upon the banding place of the same hats with the letter D, that so they may thereby be known to be Demycasters, or hats wherein Weber is mixt with other materials; And that no person or persons whatsoever, do hereafter buy, or cause to be bought any such Demycasters or mixt hats before they have been so marked with the said letter D, upon pain of the losse and forfeiture of the same hats, and such further penalties and punishments as shall be meet for contempt of Our Royall commands herein. And we do hereby further charge and command, that from henceforth no Merchants or others shall import or bring into this Our Realme any Weber-wooll, or Weber-stuffe mixed with sand,

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or any other stufte whatsoever, to make it weigh heavy, or whereby the said Beber-wooll or Beber-stufte shall be corrupted or impaired, under the penaltie of the losse and forfeiture thereof, to be seized to Our use, by such person or persons as shall discover the same, and to be further punished as shall be thought meet, the one moitie whereof to be to Us, Our heirs, and Successours, and the other moitie to be to the said Corporation of Beber makers, and their successours, and also upon pain of Our high displeasure, and such penalties and punishments, as by the Lawes and Statutes of this Realme, or otherwise may be inflicted on the offenders in the premisses for their contempt and neglect of Our Royall Will and Commandment herein. And for the accomplishment of this Our pleasure, we do hereby straightly charge and command all Customers, Comptrollers, and other Officers of Our Ports to whom it shall appertain, and all Farmours of Our Customes now, and for the time being, their Clerks and substitutes, that they, and everie of them do forbear to take any Entries of any Beber-hats, Felt-hats or Caps, or any other hats or Caps of what nature, qualitie, or condition soever made, wrought, or half wrought beyond the Seas, that shall be brought into this Realme, or Dominion of Wales, by any person or persons whatsoever. And likewise all Justices of Peace, Maiors, Sheriffes, Customers, Comptrollers, Searchers, and other Officers and Ministers whatsoever, to whom it shall appertain, that they and everie of them, in their severall Offices and places respectively, be carefull to their and everie of their powers, that Our Intention herein before mentioned be fully executed by all lawfull means whatsoever; And that they, and every of them be aiding, labouring, and assisting to the Master, Wardens, Assistants and Comminalty of Beber-makers of London, or their Deputies, Agents, or Officers for the time being in the premisses according to Our pleasure herein declared, as they will answer for the contrary at their perils.

Given at Our Court at VVhitehall, this six and twentieth day of May, in the fourteenth yeer of Our Reign.

God save the King.



Imprinted at London by Robert Barker, Printer
to the Kings most Excellent Majestie: And by
the Assignes of John Bill. 1638.

